

Not On My Watch®

Ariana Santiago

I've come to the realization
that before I can change the world
I must first change what's around me
It's time for us teens to take authority
and start respecting our authority
begin telling our authority...

Not on my watch
will innocent children and civilians
be forced to go homeless and hungry
in a country
that keeps foreign families from starving
We will not wage war on others
because our President
is ego tripping
We will not be desensitized
to the numbers
of people
who are dead and dying,
daily

Not on my watch
will we be an era of the lost and leaderless
will we be made angry
and ready to fight at the drop of a dime
yet, no direction to steer it
Not us.
We will not be destined for destruction
No!
We are not the generation of Babylon
though we commit the sins of Sodom
behind these facades of sophistication

Not on my watch
will children determine their sexuality
at 13.

No longer will youth detention centers
secretly, force feed teens for hunger striking
Ghettos will not be made labs
for chemical practicing
and white suburbs will not be subject
to drunkenness and stereotyping
This generation,
will not be caught categorizing.

Not on my watch
will I allow my peers
to slang crack rocks
whether or not it's on my block or mountaintops
to white folks or black jocks
This is a chemical genocide that has
got to stop.
We have to power to close Pandora's box

and We have the power to open doors
that were once locked

So,
Not on my watch
will 3 minutes
of a song's lyrics
degrade what took our mothers
9 months to make
Our brains have been baked
Our future has been fried
These rappers are so stuffed with cream
they're sweet as moon pies
Here's a bitter lemon
squirt in parental eyes
to hopefully help them see clearly
cause 50-cent pieces
and crypt walking puppies
are, pimping your babies

But,
Not on my watch
will we be made slaves to
question marks and maybes.
We've come to realize
Imitation is suicide
and we have to ability to develop our own minds
We will not be forced to decide
who we are with
be it the terrorist
or
the terroristic government
This is a generation
of personal opinions and individualist
and KNOW THIS
All that hoopla passed out by the media
- we don't want it
The termination of inner city hospitals
- we don't need it
and before you discontinue arts in the schools
Know that we need it
because we are *worth it*
We refuse to be mug shot mascots
or diddly-squat after thoughts
Authority figures,
you can like it or not
but
NOT ON MY WATCH